

# MORMONS

(The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/Community of Christ)

## Mormon Beliefs

- Mormons are the second fastest growing faith, after Islam
- Mormonism was founded by Joseph Smith in 1830
- God has a physical body and lives on planet near a star called Kolob
- The Book of Mormon is a mixture of the words of Jesus, other scriptures and the words of Joseph Smith
- Mormons have a 'plurality of gods' (many gods). Apparently god was once like us and could have his power withdrawn for doing wrong
- There is a 'Mrs. God' (who is married to a Mr. God)
- They deny that the virgin birth occurred
- They say Jesus and Satan are brothers
- Mormons say Jesus actually got married at 'The marriage of Cana'
- They profess to believe the Bible. Especially the KJV (A.V.) version.
- Three heavens: 1. Celestial; for top Mormons. 2+3 are for bad Mormons/Good non believers
- They claim that Mormonism can improve eternal status after death
- They say that the true Christian church is 'false' and 'of the devil'
- There are 12 million members worldwide and 60,000 missionaries (and growing!)

## Ten Points for Consideration

**1. Same God?** Mormons claim to believe in and worship the God of the Bible. Is this true?

- '**Polytheism**,' many gods or "plurality of gods" (Joseph Smith)...Bible says:

'I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be any after me' (Isaiah 43:10)

'I am the first, and the last; and beside me there is no God'...'Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any.' (Isaiah 44:6+8)

'There is no God else beside me; a just God and a saviour; there is none beside me.' (Isaiah 45:21)

- '**God evolving**'...Bible says:

'I am the LORD, I change not' (Malachi 3:6)

- '**God once a man**'...Bible says:

'God is not a man...neither the son of man' (Numbers 23:19)

Job said about God, 'He is not a man, as I am' (Job 9:32)

'I am God, and not man' (Hosea 11:9)

- '**God has a physical body**'...Bible says:

'God is a spirit' (John 4:24)

Jesus said that a true spirit 'hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have' (Luke 24:39).

**2. Same Christ?** Mormons claim to worship and adore the Christ of the Bible. Is this true?

- '**Created being**'...a spirit child of gods and brother of Satan...Bible says:

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made' (John 1:1+3)

- **Needs salvation**..."Came to earth to work out His own salvation" (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, Vol. 3, p. 238) "Christ is a saved being" (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, Vol. 3, p 257) The Bible says:

'Christ also suffered for us...Who did no sin...Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree' (1 Peter 2:21+22+24)

- **Not unique**...just a spirit child. Only higher than men and demons by degree...Bible says:

Jesus Christ is God: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.' (John 1:1-3)

'Who is the image of God, the firstborn of every creature...all things were created by him, and for him...he is before all things, and by him all things consist...he is the head of the body, the church' (Colossians 1:15-18)

Jesus came to destroy works of the devil (Satan):

'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil' (1 John 3:8)

**3. Christ + works:** Mormons believe in salvation of works and grace. Hostile to 'grace alone' doctrine of the Bible. Joseph Fielding Smith taught that "Mankind [is] damned by [the] 'faith alone' doctrine" (J. F. Smith, Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 2, p. 139). Book of Mormon and Doctrine of Covenants teach "works salvation" (E.g., The Book of Mormon: 2 Nephi 25:23; Alma 7:16; Mosiah 5:7,8; 13:27,28; 2 Nephi 9:23,24; Doctrine and Covenants, 7:37; 132:12).

Bible says:

'For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast' (Ephesians 2:8+9).

Jesus said: 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life' (John 5:25).

This has been a doctrine since the beginning of the Bible:

It says of Abraham: 'And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness' (Genesis 15:6).

'Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness' (Romans 4:3).

Paul said: 'Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law' (Romans 3:28).

'I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain' (Galatians 2:21).

'For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth' (Romans 10:4).

See also: Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Acts 16:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; 2 Peter 2:24; Colossians 2:13.

Paul warns us 'I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another Gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed' (Galatians 1:6-8).

**4. Mormon Foundation:** Joseph Smith's 'first vision' is the foundation of the Mormon church.

Official account published in Times and Seasons 1842, 20 years after the event took place. (Can you remember what you were doing 20 years ago?) Also five other drafts of the 'first vision' had been written previously!

The various accounts contradict each other and vary in detail. (e.g. Joseph Smith's age, the presence of an evil power, Smith's reason for seeking the Lord, the existence of a revival, the number of divine persons in the vision [one account clearly says "one", another says "many", and another says "two"])

"If a faith will not bear to be investigated; if its preachers and professors are afraid to have it examined, their foundation must be very weak" (George A. Smith, Mormon apostle and historian).

**5. Plagiarism:** Mormons claim that the original Book of Mormon was first written between 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.

But the Book of Mormon contains over 400 direct quotations and over 27,000 words from the 1611 King James Authorised Version of the Bible, but this version was not to be written for another 1,200 years! The chances of a non-scholar translating the hebrew and greek texts in exactly the same way as the team of fully competent hebrew and greek scholars of the King James authorised Bible, are laughable.

**6. Archaeology:** Mormons claim that archaeology backs the Book of Mormon.

National Geographic Society: "With regard to the cities mentioned in *The Book of Mormon*, neither representatives of the National Geographic Society nor archaeologists connected with any other institution of equal prestige have ever used *The Book of Mormon* in locating historic ruins in Middle America or elsewhere."

No Book of Mormon cities have ever been located, no Book of Mormon person, place, nation, or name has been found, no Book of Mormon artifacts, no Book of Mormon scriptures, no Book of Mormon inscriptions and no Book of Mormon gold plates. In fact, there is nothing that demonstrates the Book of Mormon is anything other than an invented myth.

By contrast, the archaeological evidence for the Bible is so convincing that even a former sceptic such as the great archaeologist Sir William Ramsey became converted to Christian belief. But the archaeological evidence against Mormon claims is so devastating that prominent Mormon archaeologist Thomas Stewart Ferguson quit the Mormon Church and repudiated its prophet. (See Sir William Ramsay, *The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the New Testament* [Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1979, reprint]; Tanner and Tanner, *The Changing World of Mormonism*, pp.140-41; cf. Jerald Tanner and Sandra Tanner, *Archaeology and The Book of Mormon*, available from Utah Lighthouse Ministry, Box 1884, Salt Lake City, UT 84110).

**7. Holy Books:** Mormons claim that The Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price and Doctrine and Covenants are genuine scriptures inspired by God.

- **The Book of Mormon...**Modern editions have many significant changes and over 3,000 minor changes compared to original 1830 edition.

Examples:

1 Nephi 11:18 (1830 edition) "The virgin which thou seest, is the mother of God"...Mary the mother of God? This error is now changed and reads..."The mother of the Son of God."

Jesus born in Jerusalem (Alma 7:9-10) The Bible clearly teaches Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1).

During Christ's crucifixion, darkness over the face of the land is said to have lasted three days (Helaman 14:20). The Bible clearly says three hours (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33).

- **The Pearl of Great Price** - The Mormon Church also maintains that this book has not been changed.

Thousands of words have been deleted and hundreds of words added. A further portion of The Pearl of Great Price, 'The Book of Abraham,' has recently been proven a forgery (a copy of a pagan text - the occult Egyptian 'Book of Breathings').

- **Doctrines and Covenants** - The original edition was called the Book of Commandments (1833). This was claimed to be a direct, divine revelation from God to Joseph Smith. The 1835 Book of Commandments was reissued and called Doctrines and Covenants. Between these two books there have been over 65,000 changes made! Since when has divine revelation needed correction? And if divine, who would be brave enough to correct God?

**8. Joseph Smith:** claimed to be a true biblical prophet.

In Doctrines and Covenants 84:1-5+31, it declares that both a city and a temple are to be built "in the western boundaries of the state of Missouri and dedicated by the hand of Joseph Smith." The prophecy stated that it would come to pass before that present generation "passed away" (Doctrine and Covenants 84:4-5).

In 1864, 30 years after the prophecy was given, the apostle George Cannon continued to teach that the temple would be built before "this generation" passed away. In 1870, almost 40 years later, Orson Pratt confirmed that the Church could expect a literal fulfilment of the prophecy because "God promised it" and "God cannot lie." In 1900, 70 years later, Lorenzo Snow emphasised that the Mormons now living in Utah would still go back to Missouri and build their temple. Even in 1931, 99 years later after the prophecy, Joseph Fielding Smith was stating his "firm belief" that the temple would be built.

But more than 170 years after the original prophecy, the temple has still not been built! "This generation" all passed away long ago. Joseph Smith is also long since dead and unable to dedicate the temple as "God" promised. No one can deny the prophecy was false.

**Conclusion:** None of Joseph Smith's prophecies have come true. The Bible says: 'But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.' (Deuteronomy 18:20-22)

**9. Seek The Truth:** Why has the Mormon Church ignored compelling historical research? Why has the Church acted as if this evidence does not exist?

A wealth of data exists that casts doubt on Mormons origins, history, doctrine, scripture and censorship.

Mormons have a right to this information. Contact: Utah Lighthouse Ministry, PO Box 1884, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110. [www.utlm.org](http://www.utlm.org).

**10. Spirits and Revelation:** Mormons believe that..."The cannon of scripture is still open; many lines, many precepts, are yet to be added; revelation, surprising in importance and glorious fullness than any that has been recorded, is yet to be given to the Church and declared to the world" (Talmage, *Articles of Faith*, p. 311). This is why they accept the three volumes they have added to the Bible.

Mormons even believe, "The spirit is giving direct and daily revelation to the presiding Brethren in the administration of the affairs of the church" (Doctrines and Covenants 93:1; 67:10-14; McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, p. 664; *Journal of Discoveries*, Vol. 1, pp. 13-15; Vol. 2, pp. 44-6). They believe that God even speaks to individual Mormons directly. They also believe that contact with the dead is important for their salvation! No surprise that Mormon doctrine differ from those found in the Bible!

Both of Joseph Smith's parents were occultists (Tanner and Tanner, *The Changing World of Mormonism*, p. 10; Einar Anderson, *Inside Story of Mormonism* [Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1974], p. 22. Kurt Koch, *Christian Counseling and Occultism* [Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel 1972], pp. 184-87). He claims to of had his first visitation of 'angels' at the age of 14.

In 1826, he was arrested, tried and found guilty of fortune-telling in Banbridge, New York. He used a 'Jupiter Talisman' meant to have supernatural powers. He also used 'peepstone' or 'seer stones' to find buried treasure, lost property and translate the book of Mormon. The early Mormon Church used these methods too...often to contact the dead! (Tanner and Tanner, *Joseph Smith and Money Digging*, pp. 11-13).

From his own lips, Joseph Smith said:

The dead: "are not far from us, and know and understand our thoughts, feelings and emotions"... "we have more friends behind the veil than on this side"... "the greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead"... "work for the dead is an important determining factor in the Latter-day Saints' attempt to attain their ultimate salvation and exaltation in the Kingdom of God" (J. F. Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet*, pp. 326, 243, 338, 363...*Journal of Discoveries*, Vol. 6, p. 349; cf. J. F. Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet*, pp. 222-23, 180, 191-93, 363...*Joseph Smith, Improvement Era*, Vol. 39, April 1936, p. 200; *Times and Seasons*, Vol. 2, p. 546, cited in Joseph Heinerman, *Spirit World Manifestations: Accounts of Divine Aid in Genealogical and Temple and Other Assistance to Latter-day Saints* [Salt Lake City, UT: Joseph Lyon and Associates, 1986]...Heinerman, *Spirit World Manifestations*, p. 29).

The Bible says, with no exception:

'There shall not be found among you any one that...useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee' (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

'Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils' (1 Timothy 4:1).

The question you need to answer for yourself is: Is mormonism of God or, at best, of some young man's imagination or at worst a total lie of the devil?